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SUBJECT 1 Background and Organizational Data on the
2 DOR Border Police
3 Border Police Alert Unit in Koppelsdorf

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Background and Organization of the DDR Border Police

Up to January 1952, the smallest unit of the Border Police (Grenzpolizei) was the Border Command (Grenzkommando). The area patrolled by one command amounted to 10 to 20 kilometers, and sometimes even to 30 kilometers. In January 1952 so-called Border Watches (Grenzwatchen) were formed in order to shorten patrol areas and improve border controls. At the same time, all "reactionary" elements were segregated and stationed at certain points. The Border Watches were led exclusively by Volkspolizei-Unterkommissare, who came from the Main Administration for Training (Hauptverwaltung für Ausbildung) (HVA) of the Alert Unit (Bereitschaften) Police and who had little or no experience in border patrol duty. Most of the Unterkommissare were young men of 18 to 21 years, and they were very hard on their subordinates, who were often 30 or more years old. Hopes that discipline would be improved by assigning young officers were not fulfilled. In the months following January 1952 many of the young officers had to be devoted or transferred to other posts. Indeed, discipline became so poor that more and more members of the People's Police fled to the Western Zone. When a soldier did defect to the West, his superior officer was held responsible and in most cases punished; the punishments were reprimand, strong reprimand, strongest reprimand (Rüge), confinement to quarters, reduction in rank, and expulsion. As a result of the deterioration of discipline, the Border Watches were dissolved in May 1952, and the smallest Border Guard unit became once again the Border Command. It was thought that the re-establishment of the border command as the smallest unit and the utilization of "agitators" within each command would improve discipline and make possible a stricter control of members of the Border Guard. The "agitator" group in each command is composed of four to five men who are members of the command and who are elected openly to their positions. The political and cultural chief furnishes the "agitators" with the necessary "agitation material".

2. [redacted] at least seventy percent of the members of the Border Police are opposed to the present regime. The command chiefs, the political and cultural chiefs, the SED party secretaries, part of the youth secretaries and agitators, and the noncommissioned officers (Unterführer) are generally

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politically reliable. The youth secretaries are honorary (ehrenamtliche) functionaries who are elected by the FDJ groups of the area in which the command is stationed. Each Border Police Command also has its own SED Party Group, even though there are often only two or three members of a whole command who belong to the SED.

3. In May 1952 the whole Border Police was placed under the jurisdiction of the DDR Ministry of State Security (SSD). [redacted] The reason for this change is to be found in the fact the functions of the SSD and the Border Police are similar: it is the duty of the SSD to protect the DDR against "Volksfeinde" (enemies of the people), and it is the duty of the Border Police to prevent saboteurs and foreign agents from entering the DDR. After the Border Police was placed under the SSD, several security measures were instituted, such as the use of cover names for Border Police installations in telephone conversations (see below). At the same time members of the Border Police received a 15 percent increase in pay; the daily meat ration was increased from 110 to 115 grams and the daily fat ration from 70 to 75 grams. Daily work hours were increased, however, from eight to twelve. As a result of the increase in work hours, less time was available for political instruction.
4. The Border Police distinguishes between the following types of sentinel duty:
 - a. Stationary pickets (Standposten). These are stationed at important points, such as crossroads near the border. They are posted from time to time for eight to twelve hours at one place and are expected to watch their post and the area 200 meters around it. Stationary pickets are composed of two men (Doppelposten).
 - b. Patrols (Streifen). The border is always patrolled in pairs. The distance along the border which has to be patrolled amounts to 10 to 20 kilometers.
 - c. Secret sentinels (Geheimposten). Secret sentinel duty is also a two-man job. It is the job of the Geheimposten to observe all traffic along the zonal border. They are not permitted to take police action; they merely report their observations to their command chief. Members of a command do not know where the Geheimposten are stationed.
 - d. Observation sentinels (Beobachtungsposten). These are also required to observe the border area in the West, but they are permitted to arrest persons who have neared their post and to hand such persons over to the first patrol they meet. They may leave their observation points only for a very short length of time. Civilians are not supposed to know the location of these observation points.
 - e. House sentinels (Hausposten). It is the task of the house sentinels to guard the buildings and members of the Border Police as well as to guard the supplies of the People's Police.
5. In the Border Police great emphasis is placed on "section service" (Sektionsdienst), by which is meant that reports and observations on West and East Zone areas are turned in by members of the Border Police to their superiors. Reports on the attitude of the Bavarian (West German) border police and customs officials as well as members of the United States Army are highly valued. High Border Police offices are most interested in ascertaining how West German border police members are armed, in what strength and at exactly what times they appear, and in which direction they march or drive. It is also of interest to the Border Police to find out what effect the sight of People's Police or Russian soldiers has on West German border police officials. Such observations are handed over to the Alert Unit, whence they were forwarded with the "Samuel FS-SSD" to the operational staff of the People's Police in Weimar and to the Main Administration for Border Police in Berlin.
6. The following is the organization of the People's Police in the border area as of 17 July 1952:

Kommandatura

KBBornsdorf (M51/J40)

Command (Kommando)

Oberisdorf
 Heinersdorf (M51/J50)
 Mirschnitz
 Effelder (M51/J30)
 Hünbach (M51/J40)

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Border Police UnitsCommand (Kommando)

Grafenthal (M51/J51)

Spechtsbrunn (M51/J41)

Neuenbau (M51/J40)

Probstzella (M51/J52)

Probstzella Control Point
(Kontrollpassierpunkt)(The Lichtenhain (M51/J51) Command has
allegedly been dissolved)

Tschachenmühle

Lichtentanne (M51/J61)

Titschendorf (M51/J60)

Brennersgrün (M51/J61)

Schlegel (M51/K77)

Alert Units, all of which are under the Main Administration for Border Police in Berlin, Heinrich-Plam-Strasse 31, are located in the following towns:

Gefell (M51/O49)

Ellerich*

Meiningen (M51/H82)

Mühlhausen (M52/H89)

Sondershausen (M52/D11)

Bautzen

Gardelegen (M53/Y44)

Plauen (M51/K12)

On the average, Alert Units are 900 to 1,000 men strong.

7. The Land Office (Landesbehörde) of the Border Police in Weimar has several Special Commands (Sonderkommandos) stationed at key points along the border, allegedly for the purpose of meeting possible attack from the West. One such command consisting of about 20 men is stationed between Mirschnitz and Effelder. Its cover name is "Storchennest". The Land Office in Weimar also has at its disposal several recruiting commissions, whose duty it is to recruit men for the Border Police.

The Körvelsdorf Border Alert Unit

8. The Border Alert Unit (Grenzbereitschaft) in Körvelsdorf is billeted in four villas which are arranged in a quadrangle. The complex is surrounded by a board fence about one and one half meters high.
9. The following is a list of the more important personnel of the alert unit:

Chief (Leiter):	Volkspolizei-Kommandeur	(fnu) Greiner-Mai
Deputy:	Kommandeur	(fnu) Störker
Political Chief:	Polizeierrat	(fnu) Holtschke
Chief of Personnel:	Polizeimeister	(fnu) Völke
Deputy Chief of Personnel:	Volkspolizeimeister	(fnu) Rauh
Chief of Administration (Geschäftszimmerleiter):	Volkspolizeimeister	(fnu) Scherschmidt
Deputy Chief of Administration:	Volkspolizei-Hauptw.	(fnu) Eulenstein
Chief, Criminal Division:	Oberkommissar	(fnu) Held
Deputy Chief, Criminal Division:	Volkspolizei-Kommissar	(fnu) Sperlich
Chief, Intendence (Intendantur):	Volkspolizei-Kommissar	(fnu) Schönheid
Deputy Chief, Intendence:	Volkspolizeimeister	(fnu) Sauerhering
Chief of Finance (Kasse):	Volkspolizeimeister	(fnu) Stegler
Deputy Chief of Finance:	Volkspolizeimeister	(fnu) Kirsch
"Sachbearbeiter" for Procurement (Verpflegung):	Polizeimeister	(fnu) Habermazn
Deputy "Sachbearbeiter" for Procurement:	Oberwachtmeister	(fnu) Edelmann
Chief, Clothing Issues (Bekleidungsmeister):	Volkspolizeimeister	(fnu) Hering
Deputy Chief, Clothing Issues:	Volkspolizei-Oberwachtmeister	(fnu) Heinicke
Chief, Telephone Exchange:	Volkspolizei-Unterkommissar	(fnu) Niks
Deputy Chief, Telephone Exchange:	Volkspolizei-Oberwachtmeister	(fnu) Hermann
Head of the Watch:	Unterkommissar	(fnu) Münch
Assistant Head of the Watch:	Volkspolizei-Hauptw.	(fnu) Rüger

(The watch consists of about 15 men, it is the duty of the watch to guard the buildings of the Kommandatura.)

10. The motor pool of the Alert Unit has four automobiles (one Opel, one Ford Taunus, and two Volkswagen), two DKW (Ifa) racing cars for purposes of pursuit, one 3 1/2 ton Siss truck (Russian make), and one 3-ton Horch truck. It also has six or seven motorcycles, BMW 250 and 350 cc.
11. The telephone exchange at the Alert Unit headquarters is in operation night and day. It is a 2/10 lamp switchboard with 50 extensions (Anschlüsse) for official and public calls. For long-distance calls, the People's Police offices has the following cover names:

Berlin: Department-Staff-Border (Abteilung-Staff-Grenze) - "Gebirge"

Chief	Chefinspekteur	(fnu) Zaiser
Deputy	Inspekteur	Richard Spolanz

Weimar: Department-Staff-Border - "Weintraube"

Inspector	Chefinspekteur	Erhardt König
Deputy	Inspekteur	(fnu) Jop

Köppelsdorf: Alert Unit - "Konrad"

The subordinate offices also have cover names:

Oberlind: "Ohndruf"
 Gräfenhalt: "Gera"
 Tschachenmühle: "Thaa"
 Rockstadt: "Berlin"

Members of the Border Police identify themselves over the phone by numbers; the numbers are constantly changed.

12. The Köppelsdorf Alert Unit also has one tape teletype machine (Streifen-fernschreiber) with a line to Weimar via Sonneberg and Erfurt. There are three types of messages: routine (einfach), priority (beschleunigt), and flash (Blitzfern schreiben). In every case, flash messages were directed over Weimar to the Main Administration for the Border Police in Berlin when People's Police or border inhabitants had defected to the Western Zone. These messages were always signed by Greiner-Mai, Störker, or Siegert.
13. Russian troop units are located in Köppelsdorf, Saalfeld, and Jena; the strength and composition of the units is not known. Russian soldiers are stationed on all roads leading to the zonal border, about 500 meters from the border. They are armed with machine pistols and conduct checks of all people travelling toward the border. The Russian soldiers are in no way connected with the Border Police. They are driven to and from their check points in trucks.